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C12 F11WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
110 Federal Courts Building
Saint Paul 2, Minnesota

September 8, 1944

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FACT SHEET ON WFA AID TO COMMUNITY SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

Objective: This program of assistance has a dual objective:

To assist local communities in the development and maintenance of programs providing nutritionally adequate lunches to children in schools and child-care centers;

To encourage increased consumption of foods in temporary abundance and aid American farmers in the long-time development of better domestic markets for agricultural commodities.

During the past school year some type of school lunch was available to approximately four million American boys and girls. This year it is hoped that an even larger number may participate in the program assisted by WFA.

Local (Sponsor's) Responsibility:

The Minnesota School Lunch Program is administered jointly by the War Food Administration and the State Department of Education. The programs are basically a community undertaking, relying on local initiative, administration, and sponsorship. There is no better civic enterprise for school boards, parent-teacher associations, Red Cross, women's clubs, church groups, American Legion posts, Rotary, Kiwanis, Optimist, and similar civic and service groups to sponsor.

Local sponsors working through or with local or State school authorities organize the lunch programs and purchase the food from local wholesalers, retailers and farmers. Local sponsors will be reimbursed by the Office of Distribution, War Food Administration -- up to specified amounts -- for the purchase of agricultural commodities which are used in the lunch. The amount of reimbursement will be based on the need of financial aid to maintain an adequate program as well as on the type of meal served.

There are three types of lunches for which reimbursement is made. Type A is a complete lunch, including all the items necessary for an adequate meal. Type B has smaller portions of these same foods and is less adequate nutritionally. Type C consists of a half pint of milk. The maximum rate of reimbursement for the Type A lunch cannot exceed 9 cents per child per day. For the Type B lunch, the maximum rate of reimbursement is at the rate of 6 cents per child per day and for Type C, at a rate approximating 2 cents for each half pint of milk.

Under the agreement, lunches or milk must be offered to all children with no distinction made between those who pay and those who do not. Any profits which result from the operation of the program must be put back into the project in the form of improved meals or lower prices to the children. Along with its claim for reimbursement, sponsors must file a simple report once a month with the WFA office.

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War Food Administration's Responsibility:

The WFA provides reimbursement for the local purchase of agricultural commodities that may be used in meeting the requirements of the specified lunch types up to a maximum amount for one meal per child per day. It may, upon request, from time to time supply certain abundant foods purchased as part of the price-support program. It will give advisory service wherever it is desired, and will supply publications on food and nutrition, and suggestions for meal planning.

The Use of Rationed Foods:

With respect to rationing, sponsors must register the schools or child-care centers as "institutional users" at their local War Price and Rationing Boards and receive allotments of ration points for the purchase of rationed foods. Schools participating in the program must comply with the Office of Price Administration regulations governing the rationing of foods to institutional users.

Program Materials:

Planning and program materials may be had by writing the Office of Distribution, War Food Administration, 110 Federal Courts Building, St. Paul 2, Minnesota.

"Lunch at School" - NFC-9 (Revised). A question and answer folder for those interested in a school lunch program -- parents, school officials, and sponsors.

"Menu Planning Guide for School Lunches" - NFC-10. These menus are based on WFA requirements for Type A and Type B lunches.

"Handbook for Workers in School-Lunch Programs" - NFC-3. This tells the whys and wherefores of a school lunch program, with specific reference to volunteer service.

"School Lunch Recipes" - MF-537 - 44 pages of recipes, prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.